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Wigmore Rural District



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1914.

J. C. AUSTEN & SON, PRINTERS, LUDLOW.

Wigmore Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1914.

The Area of the District is 38,609 acres, exclusive of the area under water.

The District is situated in the Northern corner of Herefordshire. It is bounded on the North and East by Shropshire, on the West by Radnorshire, on the South by Kington and Leominster Rural Districts. The District is a hilly one, Mocktree in the North East and Willey in the West, bordering on 1,000 feet. It is well watered by the rivers Teme, Clun and Lugg, which flow in an Easterly direction.

Geologically the District is chiefly limestone, with traces here and there of free stone. The Subsoil is chiefly gravel. The hilly portions are on rock. The District is well wooded and picturesque

The following table gives the Rainfall at Leintwardine for the year 1914, kindly supplied to me by Mr. Charnock.

Month.	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with 'or or more recorded.
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.	
January	·825	·27	31	12
February	4·06	·67	12	17
March	3·375	·47	7	23
April	1·445	·38	10	11
May	1·06	·2	3	14
June	2·29	1·05	9	11
July	5·00	1·21	2	19
August	2·85	·70	1	15
September	1·42	·31	10	13
October	2·41	·47	25	13
November	4·19	·78	4	23
December	7·23	·91	27	25
Total	36·155			196

Total rainfall for 1913 was 37·145 inches.

THE INDUSTRIES.

The industries are almost exclusively agricultural and the District is famous for the breeding of Hereford Cattle.

POPULATION.

The estimated population at the middle of the year is 3,661. The number of inhabited houses at the Census of 1911 was 862, with an average number of persons per house of 4·37.

BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered in the District during the year was 73, net number as belonging to the District 74 as 1 birth was an inward transfer. Rate per 1,000 persons living, 20·21. Number of Illegitimate Births, 4; rate per 1,000 1·09. The Birth Rate for England and Wales (Rural) was 21·9.

DEATHS.

The number of Deaths registered in the District during 1914 was 32. Net deaths belonging to the District 40, as 8 deaths were transferred in of persons belonging to the District. Rate per 1000 persons living, 10·9. Rate for England and Wales (rural) 13·3. There were 2 deaths uncertified.

The following table gives the ages at death :—

Under 1 year	...	...	4
1 and under 2 years	...	...	1
5 „ „ 15 „	...	...	1
15 „ „ 25 „	...	...	1
25 „ „ 45 „	...	...	1
45 „ „ 65 „	...	...	9
65 years and upwards	...	...	23
Total			40

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of Children dying under one year of age was 4. Rate per 1000 births 54·05.

The Infant Mortality is less than half what it was last year.

The following table gives the cause of deaths of Infants :—

Injury at birth	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	1
Total			4

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There have been no deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases.

CANCER.

Number of Deaths from Cancer, 5.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There have been only seven cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

There is a small Emergency Small Pox Hospital at Birtley with 3 beds, it is in charge of a caretaker.

There is no Isolation Hospital for other infectious diseases.

The following table gives the number and nature of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Number of Houses Infected	4	2
„ „ Persons „	5	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1914 there have been two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurring in the District and one death from Tubercular Meningitis occurring outside the District of a person belonging to the District.

Rate per 1000, '81.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis notified in the District during the year :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... 7.

Every advantage of Bacteriological examination of Sputa is taken and disinfection and preventative measures are taken to combat the disease.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The District is frequently inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

The housing accommodation for the working classes is fairly satisfactory, but some houses are not in a very good state of repair and in some places there is no water supply. Inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Dunning.

No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	50
No. considered injurious to health	...	...	...	...	1
No. of representations made to Local Authority with view to Closing Order	...	...	...	...	1
No. of houses with defects remedied without Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	10
No. of houses erected	..	...	...	...	1
Inhabited houses closed	...	...	...	...	2

SEWERAGE.

The Sewerage of the District is satisfactory. The Council have chosen a site, for deposit of refuse from the village of Leintwardine.

WATER SUPPLY.

A supply of water for the village of Adforton has been provided by bringing water down by a pipe to a convenient position.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are two Milkshops on the register, they have been inspected and found satisfactory. No Milk is sent out of the district. Bye-laws are in force.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The Slaughter-houses have been inspected and found to be kept in a satisfactory state.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There is one Common Lodging-house at Leintwardine. It is well kept. Bye-laws are in force.

BAKEHOUSES.

The Bakehouses are all kept in a satisfactory state.

SCHOOLS.

All the Schools are provided with a good water supply except Adforton and Burrington.

New privies are to be provided for the Leintwardine Schools.

The Schools at Shobdon, Burrington, Brampton Bryan and Lingen were closed for a period by the School Medical Officer on account of an epidemic of Measles.

WORKSHOPS.

There are four Mills in the district which come under the head of Factories. They have been inspected.

The Blacksmiths Shops require lime-washing.

THE MIDWIVES ACT.

The County Medical Officer of Health superintends the working of this act, and the Midwives practising in the district have been frequently inspected.

A Midwife has been provided for the Leintwardine parish.

PERMISSIVE POWERS.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, and the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, have been adopted.

I append report of Sanitary Inspector and five tabular statements.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LAWDER T. WHELAN,

Leintwardine,

Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1915.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

During the year I have inspected 50 Cottages in addition to several reported on last year, and at which work was required.

The principal defects found were from faulty slop drains and privies. These, in the majority of cases, have on intimation notice given to the owner, received the necessary attention.

There are three Slaughter Houses in constant use in the District, one of these has been improved by relaying the floor and providing better drainage.

Plans have been submitted for two new houses. In one case no provision for a water supply was made, consequently the plans were not approved.

Samples of water from three different sources have been submitted for analysis, viz.:- from Pipe Aston Village supply, which was found to be good, Lingen School supply, slightly polluted, and at Walford, where the water was found to be seriously contaminated. Intimation notices have been served in the two latter cases and the matter is receiving attention.

The following is a Summary of the most important work done during the year.

INSPECTIONS.

Number of houses inspected	50
„ found defective ...	13
„ cleansed and repaired	10
„ closed	1

NOTICES—

Number of notices served	9 on 12 houses
„ complied with ...	10
„ outstanding	2
„ letters written ...	26
„ complaints investigated	10

WELLS, PUMPS, &c.—

Number cleansed and repaired	4
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DRAINS, SINKS, &c.—

Defective drains put in order	15
Spouting, sinks, &c.	4
Slaughter Houses inspected	3
Dairies, Cowsheds	2
Lodging Houses	1

NUISANCES ABATED—

From animals improperly kept	2
Accumulation of manure ...	1
Miscellaneous	3

